



Maryland Agriculture Data

Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW2302

September 9, 2002

Corn Harvest Begins

Weather conditions returned to dry after a few showers to start the week, giving Maryland farmers an average of 6.2 **days suitable for fieldwork** like harvesting corn. With more than half of the **corn** crop mature, many farmers began their harvest last week. Sixteen percent of the **corn for grain is harvested**, 10 percent more than the previous year, and 9 percent ahead of the five year average. Despite recent rain, yields are expected to be significantly lower than last year due to the extremely dry conditions throughout the growing season.

Showers also came too late for full season **soybeans**, which are shedding leaves. Twenty-two percent are **shedding leaves**, 19 percent more than the previous year, and 16 percent ahead of the average. The moisture helped late planted soybeans to green up, however the end of the growing season is approaching, leaving little time for yields to improve.

Significant moisture fell on the Eastern shore early in the week with Wicomico County receiving 6.8 inches. Conversely, the Western part of the state received little to no rain, causing soil moisture and pasture conditions to decline. **Topsoil** for Maryland is rated 2 percent surplus, 50 percent adequate, 41 percent short, and 7 percent very short. Nineteen percent of **subsoil** is rated in adequate supply, 48 percent short, and 33 percent very short.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 8, 2002 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1997-2001
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	26	25	25	25
Cantaloupes	88	83	89	94
Corn, for grain	16	5	6	7
Corn, for silage	71	55	36	33
Cucumbers	83	78	80	88
Lima beans, for processing only	44	39	69	- -
Snap beans	87	86	83	85
Sweet Corn	83	78	90	92
Tobacco	68	54	71	68
Tomatoes	80	76	85	90
Watermelons	81	79	82	91
Crop Progress:				
Corn, dent	83	70	77	71
Corn, mature	65	45	40	34
Sorghum, turning color	16	1	28	34
Soybeans, turning color	33	26	7	13
Soybeans, dropping leaves	22	19	3	6
Hay Harvested:				
Other hay, 3 rd cutting	80	60	74	71
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	45	37	60	44

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 8, 2002 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	41	31	18	9	1
Sorghum	4	20	56	20	0
Soybeans	34	25	28	13	0
Range & Pasture	30	33	30	7	0

Carrie Davies
Mathematical Statistician

Ray Garibay
State Statistician

Precipitation and Departures From Normal, Through August 31, 2002				
	August 2002		Since April 1, 2002	
County	Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Accumulated Precipitation	Accumulated Departure
Maryland				
Allegany	2.3	-0.9	17.2	0.3
Anne Arundel	3.3	-0.6	15.3	-3.3
Baltimore	3.9	-0.1	17.6	-2.2
Calvert	3.5	-0.3	13.6	-5.4
Caroline	2.8	-1.5	14.6	-4.5
Carroll	3.8	0.4	16.1	-2.5
Cecil	2.4	-1.8	14.0	-6.0
Charles	3.0	-1.0	15.7	-2.8
Dorchester	3.1	-1.5	14.1	-5.2
Frederick	3.6	-0.3	17.8	-0.6
Garrett	2.1	-2.0	22.5	1.8
Harford	3.4	-0.9	16.0	-4.8
Howard	2.7	-1.0	13.5	-5.3
Kent	3.0	-1.0	15.6	-3.4
Montgomery	3.2	-0.5	17.7	-0.6
Prince George's	2.8	-1.3	14.8	-4.3
Queen Anne's	3.3	-0.7	15.4	-3.5
Somerset	3.2	-1.4	15.5	-2.4
St. Mary's	3.3	-0.8	14.5	-5.0
Talbot	3.7	-0.5	13.2	-6.0
Washington	3.0	-0.3	15.8	-3.3
Wicomico	3.7	-1.4	14.3	0.3
Worcester	3.0	-2.2	16.0	-3.7
Delaware				
New Castle	2.4	-1.2	14.9	-4.0
Kent	3.0	-1.2	18.0	-0.1
Sussex	3.5	-1.5	13.7	-5.1

Source: National Weather Service